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in implanting love of reading confer on the public or endowed libraries a new privilege and very precious opportunities; and these opportunities come not only to the highly organized city or university libraries, but to the small rural libraries which are able to employ a librarian competent to direct the individual applicant for books to the best and most appropriate reading for that person. To render this service to applicants for books is to carry forward education into and through adult life.

An important part of the aid a competent librarian can give such persons is to make them familiar with the use of books of reference of all sorts, and with the indices of good collections or sets of well-selected books and of series of well-conducted journals and magazines. Any intelligent person who learns to use books of reference, indices, and concordances will be able to guide himself safely to much good reading, and will so be enabled to follow his own bent in reading. In this way a competent librarian, or librarian's assistant, in a free

library can be of great service to any young person who manifests a desire for guidance towards appropriate reading.

Most of the evils from which modern society is suffering can be cured only by education, begun in youth but continued into adult life. Among these evils are the industrial unrest, the manifest deficiencies of the American people in respect to carriage, posture, muscular development, and grace of movement, infant mortality, child labor, alcoholism, bad housing, bad diets, and waste of the nation's material resources. All these can be remedied only through better education of each successive generation. They all need to be dug up by the roots, and to be made to cease in mankind's environment. To this incessant digging up every helpful human agency, governmental, political, or social, should be directed; and among these agencies the free library already has a high place, which, however, can be enlarged in the future by wise and constant effort.

Sincerely yours,  
CHARLES W. ELIOT.

#### STATE-WIDE LIBRARY SERVICE

BY JULIA A. ROBINSON, *Secretary, Iowa Library Commission*

##### *A Summary*

The recognition of state-wide responsibility in providing free books had its first manifestation in the passage of laws authorizing city library support. Next came laws for promoting the growth and efficiency of these libraries, and simultaneously in many states there was created a state department charged with such duty, together with the operation of a state traveling library system for the use of communities without other library facilities.

The governing bodies of the different state library extension agencies differ both in number of members and method of appointment. Library commissions and boards of education generally consist of both appointed and ex-officio members. State Library Boards are generally ex-officio.

The most desirable board would seem to be an appointed one, not too large, whose chief duty, or equally important with any assigned to it, should be the promotion

of city and county libraries and the circulation of books through a state traveling library.

The other essentials for ideal state library service include (a) sufficient appropriation to secure (b) an adequate well selected book collection, and (c) a competent staff, with a librarian at the head, sufficient help, and high enough salaries to command such help, (d) publicity which will carry information of the resources of the library to all in the state needing its aid. Too frequently this cannot be done as the supply is not equal to meet the demand which would thus be created and many people of the state are deprived of the help which they need and desire and for which they pay,—though not to an alarmingly large amount. (e) There should be included also, facilities for reference work, with a trained reference librarian, and books, magazines, and pamphlets in numbers to meet the demands. And not depending upon the appropriation but upon the attitude of

the state, is a proper standing for the department as a state department, cordial co-operation on the part of state officials, suitable and well equipped rooms, and ability to secure sufficient supplies and printing.

A brief review of the library facilities of the states with the special work of each library will serve to show that though the field may seem well covered, there has been and is still need for a further source of book supply.

Of the various kinds of libraries for the use of the people of the state, we may well place first free public libraries supported by the cities for the use of the residents of the cities. But in many states the number of cities and towns large enough to support a library adequately, has been nearly reached.

In addition to its public libraries every state contains what perhaps we should place second, school libraries. Their inability to supply the book needs of the people is shown (a) by their limited number in most states, for while there exist laws or state board requirements for their establishment, the provisions of these laws are often inadequate and the laws, such as they are, are often evaded as evidenced by the fact that in one state books may be borrowed from the traveling library to fill these requirements; and in some cases the boxes have remained unopened—still the school could report that it had the books.

(b) Where school libraries do exist they are often inadequate because the book collections are small, poorly selected, and not made available by classification, cataloging or proper administration.

This lack on the part of school libraries to fulfill even their own functions of supplementing the school work, grows out of lack of funds, lack of state supervision, lack of trained and competent librarians, and lack of recognition on the part of school authorities, of the difference between a properly conducted and a poorly conducted library.

Third, we may place college and other

reference libraries. In the number of volumes, these libraries always stand high but while fulfilling a need for research work they do not supply the need, if not greater, at least of a larger number of people, for general reading. They are also limited in their availability for their books cannot be borrowed and they are often too distant to be readily visited.

County libraries exist in growing numbers in different states and are being pushed in many more and to them we must look in the future for the solution of our problem. Two states only, California, and Utah, consider that they have grown to such numbers as to fill all book needs. In many states there are as yet no county systems and in many others they are not sufficiently developed to take their places alone. Therefore, if any attempt is made for a number of years to come to supply the "other half" of our population with books, it must be in many states through our traveling library systems which have not yet outlived their usefulness, but occupy an important place in the library facilities of the state.

Perhaps in closing it may not be amiss to suggest the limitations of such state service as I have attempted to describe.

The first is the financial one. To adequately carry on the work of supplying half or more than half of the population of a state with books through one agency, and at long range, requires a much larger appropriation than most states at the present time are willing to make for this purpose, and the work is now and always will be handicapped by lack of funds. And even were that not so, a traveling library is not an economical method of book supply because of the increased cost of library work by mail, the larger force needed to handle it, and the loss in the use of books by the time required for transportation, making necessary a larger collection.

The second limitation is in the service to users of the traveling library, for state service means smaller collections at hand and more delay in securing books than

would be true with a local or county library. A mail order library cannot, in the nature of the case, be as satisfactory as one which is as near as your telephone or your automobile.

But above all is the fact that all the people of the state will never be served in this way. Some will never know about it, some will never make the effort to use it, and some will not be satisfied with such service.

The ideal, therefore, would seem to be city and county libraries, supplying the ordinary book demands and in addition a state department for the fostering of these libraries and the maintenance of a book collection to serve the state through these larger units in supplying books of limited local demand, to supplement the

city and county collections, and for reloaning by them.

One state—may I be pardoned for now naming that state—for it is the state which Miss Tyler made famous—that state has a revised version of "Books for Everybody" which reads, "A book for every man, woman and child in Iowa through the libraries of Iowa." Until that glad day shall come when all the states realize that dream through our city and county libraries, state-wide library service through a traveling library will continue to be needed. With adequate support, its possibilities for good are almost unlimited.

Let us therefore pray for liberal-minded and broad-visioned legislators who shall be as anxious as we that the state shall do its full share in providing books for everybody.

#### NEXT STEPS IN EXTENDING THE USE OF BOOKS

FREDERIC G. MELCHER, *Secretary, National Association of Book Publishers*

No past diligence of mine has ever received such prompt and outspoken recognition as the previous speakers have given to the part I have taken in helping to carry through Miss Tyler's plan for this meeting. It seems only fair to me, however, to explain that I myself appear in this part of the program, not by my own planning, but by the president's invitation.

It might seem, perhaps, that the opportunity to give the last address on a six-day convention had its disadvantages, yet I hold this opportunity with great pleasure, and it seems to me a notable testimony to the unusual character of this convention that a thousand people are on Saturday evening still gathered here, still interested in the things that have brought us together. And I find another pleasure in that I am enabled to prevent you from forgetting two significant things of the conference week.

May I recall to you the happy turn of phrase of Dr. Butterfield this morning, when he said, wording a slogan that has been mine without knowing it, that the thing for us all to do is to make it

"Everybody for Books!" And if that is our objective, I turn back for the means to accomplish this to the words of President Tyler in her opening address, when she pointed out that in our steps ahead we should look forward to a period of co-operation between all of those who are interested in the use and in the distribution of books.

In one other way I welcome this opportunity to be the last speaker, and for this moment I would rather assume my more hard-earned title of bookseller rather than such newly acquired ones as editor or Publishers' Association secretary. I would like to remind you that some one hundred and fifty years ago booksellers sloughed off the job of publishing in order that they could more earnestly concentrate themselves on the more interesting and intriguing work of getting the book to its ultimate consumer. Some seventy-five years after that booksellers began to share with the free public library this great task of bringing the book to everybody, and the communities, as I have been reminded in